

their will. The American people do not want this health care bill to become law. In my district, they strongly and vocally oppose this plan, and I hear this every day in phone calls and emails, people coming into my office. But I also hear it when I go to the grocery store or to a restaurant in my district. People come up and tell me, BILL, oppose this bill. Stop this bill. And I fully intend on voting against it.

I have also talked to the small businesses and large businesses across this country. They oppose it also because it's creating great uncertainty for them, and this great uncertainty is causing harm to our economy. They're not hiring new employees because of the uncertainty of the cost this bill will have on them. They're not investing in their businesses because of the uncertainty these mandates will have, will push down onto their businesses. This is exactly the kind of uncertainty that's keeping our unemployment rate at 10 percent, and job creation is stagnant. The Democrats' health care plan is reckless, and I believe it will put America on a path to financial ruin.

THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEVADA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, last week I hosted a telephone town hall with more than 3,500 people tuned in from District Three. This was an excellent opportunity to hear directly from my constituents about the issues that are important to their lives. This was the sixth telephone town hall that I participated in. In addition, we've answered some 95,000 letters, held 10 Congress on the Corners, and hosted five housing workshops.

These means of communication have helped me to be a powerful voice for the people of District Three and to provide as much transparency as possible about the proceedings here in Washington. In fact, thanks to these efforts, I've put \$1.6 million directly into the pockets of southern Nevadans by fighting for veterans to get their benefits, seniors to get their Social Security benefits, and homeowners to receive loan modifications that keep them in their homes. I've made it a top priority to stay closely connected to my constituents, fighting for them in Washington while serving them in southern Nevada. I encourage them to call on me any time.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage the rejection of this health care bill. The American people have spoken out time after time, and I'm puzzled why Congress is

still considering it. Done in secrecy, this bill will cost jobs, raise taxes, and slash Medicare benefits. And as a physician, I know this bill will be bad for patients. It's terrible for our economy, and it's damaging to the very people we are trying to help.

Although the past is no guarantee of the future, it is, however, instructive. This administration has a failed stimulus package, a failed banking system, a failed cap-and-trade, and numerous questionable interventions into General Motors, AIG, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and others. This kind of track record gives the American public no reason to trust this administration with its health care. I urge my colleagues to listen to the will of the American people and vote "no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, the process which the Democratic majority will reportedly use to ram their costly government health care program through this House is truly deplorable and likely unconstitutional. Article I, section 7 of the Constitution clearly states that both Chambers must pass their bills by a vote. Then the bill is sent to the President for his signature before we can reconcile a bill here in Congress.

It's unconscionable to disregard these principles after the American people have clearly said "no" to this plan. They've told Congress to go back to the drawing board and find a solution. It's wrong to flaunt the Constitution and the will of the American people by forcing this proposal down their throats.

Madam Speaker, it will be a sad day for this institution and our great Nation if a proposal of this nature comes to the floor of the House under these circumstances.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, we have been debating health care reform for over 1 year. Today I am urging my colleagues to step up to the plate with courage and vote for passage of this critical legislation. If we don't move forward, the American people will be faced with grave consequences due to our inaction. Rising health costs are crushing American families, forcing small businesses to choose between health care and jobs.

Madam Speaker, \$1 out of every \$6 in the U.S. economy is spent on health care today. If we do nothing, in 30 years \$1 out of every \$3 in our economy will be tied up in health care. If we fail to pass health care reform, families

could see their spending on premiums and out-of-pocket insurance costs rise 34 percent in 5 years and 79 percent in 10 years. Without reform, every 4 years 3.5 million American jobs will be lost. More importantly, if we fail to pass reform, insurance companies will be allowed to continue to deny coverage for preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will be allowed to drop coverage when you get sick.

I urge you to pass this bill now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned by reports that the majority party may try to move the health care reform bill through the House without a vote. To move such sweeping legislation, especially considering the price tag, using a parliamentary gimmick is unconscionable. The majority of the American people do not support the health care reform bill presently before Congress. It spends money we don't have, cuts the Medicare program when we should be coming up with ways to get our financial house in order and make sure the Medicare program is protected. The American people want a bipartisan bill that fixes what is broken and keeps what is working.

Where is the accountability? Where is the transparency? America expects more and deserves more. This morning The Washington Post said that what the Democrats are threatening to do is "unseemly." There needs to be an up-or-down vote on health care reform, not on a procedural sleight of hand.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. I often wonder what part of the world our colleagues are living in on the other side of the aisle. I arrived here on November 5. On November 6 there was an up-or-down vote on a major health reform bill in this House. The Senate did it just before Christmas. I think it was Christmas Eve. There has been an up-or-down vote, and now this week we will have an opportunity to take up this bill, pass it on to the President, get it signed, and simultaneously make corrections in the Senate. It sounds to me like that's an open process, and we've been at this now for more than a year here and this Nation for more than a century, trying to provide health care for all.

And let's keep in mind that our economy absolutely demands that we take action now. Seventeen percent of our economy is being used. The more we spend, the more uninsured we have. We solve those problems with this bill. It's